

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 1, 3 through 6, 10 through 12, 14 through 17, and 21 through 23 are pending, with Claims 1, 12, and 23 being independent. Claims 1, 12, and 23 have been amended.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended in granting and conducting on August 20, 2008, a personal interview with Applicants' representative. At the interview, Applicants' representative and the Examiner discussed the outstanding rejections, which are respectfully traversed, as well as proposed amendments to the claims. Applicants understand that the Examiner might, upon further consideration, consider the proposed amendments to overcome the rejections, and the claims have been so amended.

Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance, and the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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